

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 NEA-10 AF-10 SAM-01 /169 W

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R 271052Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8685

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10289

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND POLITICAL DIRECTORS
MEETINGS

1. SUMMARY. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH US, DUFOURCQ
(QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE) DESCRIBED GOF
IMPRESSIONS OF US/EC CONSULTATIONS AS DISCUSSED AT
RECENT MEETINGS OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND FOREIGN
MINISTERS IN BONN. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON JOBERT'S VISION
OF EUROPEAN UNION AND QUESTIONED US COMMITMENT TO A
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UNITED EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. US/EC CONSULTATION - UNDERLINING CONTINUED FRENCH RESISTANCE TO FORMAL COMMITMENT TO US/EC CONSULTATIONS, DUFOURCQ NOTED THAT EC HAD AGREED IN COURSE OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS' DINNER AND "INFORMAL" FONMINS' MEETINGS ON NEED FOR "FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC, CASE-BY-CASE" APPROACH TO CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN EC AND US. WHEN WE ASKED HOW THIS DIFFERED FROM PREVIOUS FRENCH ATTITUDE ON CONSULTATION ISSUE, DUFOURCQ RESPONDED THAT IT WAS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER FRENCH VIEWS. HE NOTED THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EC ATMOSPHERE AT LUXEMBOURG MINISTERIAL AND AT BONN MEETINGS WAS SIMPLY THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS AT BONN AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FORMAL, INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSULTATIVE LINK BETWEEN US AND EC. HE SAID THAT UNDER THIS "FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC, CASE-BY-CASE" FORMULA FOR CONSULTATION, EC CONSULTATIONS WITH US ON EC-ARAB COOPERATION AND ON MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION FOR CSCE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO DIFFERENT.

3. MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION - WE REPEATED TO DUFOURCQ US ARGUMENTS AGAINST SEPARATE CSCE DECLARATION ON MEDITERRANEAN. DUFOURCQ ADAMANTLY DEFENDED SUBSTANCE AND FORM OF SEPARATE MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION AS PROPOSED BY EC. HE STRESSED THAT EUROPEANS HAVE SPECIAL INTERESTS IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA. WE POINTED OUT THAT AS FAR AS US WAS CONCERNED WE CONSIDER THAT WE, TOO, HAVE BROAD INTERESTS IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON, AS WELL AS OTHERS, THAT WE HAD EXPECTED FULL AND EARLY CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND EC ON SUCH AN INITIATIVE.

4. EUROPEAN UNION - IN LIGHT OF SPATE OF REPORTS DEALING WITH FONMIN JOBERT'S VIEWS ON EUROPEAN UNION (E.G. PARIS 9329), WE ASKED DUFOURCQ'S IMPRESSION OF JOBERT'S THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT. HE ADMITTED THAT JOBERT HAD BEEN VERY CAUTIOUS IN SPELLING OUT DETAILS OF EUROPEAN UNION IN PUBLIC. ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ, GOF HAS NO FIRM VIEWS ON NATURE OF EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE, OTHER THAN THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE FEDERAL AND THAT IT IS NOT LIKELY

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TO BE REALIZED FOR SOME TIME (FOR EARLIER COMMENTS BY DUFOURCQ ON THIS SUBJECT, SEE PARIS 5659). WITH REGARD TO PARLIAMENTARY MECHANISM, DUFOURCQ SAID THAT FRENCH HAD IN MIND BICAMERAL SYSTEM ALONG LINES OF GERMAN EXAMPLE WITH POPULARLY ELECTED LOWER HOUSE AND A "BUNDES RAT" REPRESENTING INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBER STATES.

5. US ATTITUDE ON EUROPEAN UNION - DUFOURCQ SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN OTHER EC CAPITALS WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT DIRECTION OF US POLICY ON EUROPEAN UNION. IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS GELB'S RECENT ARTICLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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DUFOURCQ SAID EUROPEANS WERE COMING INCREASINGLY TO

DOUBT CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR GOAL OF EUROPEAN UNION. THESE DOUBTS, CONTINUED DUFOURCQ, WERE REINFORCED BY ACTIONS OF US OVER PAST 12 MONTHS WHICH HAD EFFECT, IF NOT PURPOSE, OF BRINGING TO A HALT ANY MOVEMENT TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION. WE TOLD DUFOURCQ THAT THERE SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT ABOUT CONSTANT US SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNION, A GOAL THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED FIVE SUCCESSIVE US ADMINISTRATIONS AND HAS BEEN FIRMLY AND REPEATEDLY RENEWED, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 23 YEAR OF EUROPE SPEECH. DUFOURCQ SAID HE WAS REASSURED BY OUR COMMENTS BUT REMAINED SKEPTICAL.

6. COMMENTS. BASED ON DUFOURCQ'S COMMENTS ABOVE, WE DO NOT DETECT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN ADAMANT FRENCH OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF INSTITUTIONALIZED OR ORGANIC CONSULTATIVE LINK BETWEEN US AND EC. RECENT REPORTING FROM OTHER EC CAPITALS ON OUTCOME OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS-FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS IN BONN LEAVES US SOMEWHAT IN DOUBT AS TO ACTUAL MEANING OF "FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC CASE-BY-CASE" CONSULTATION BETWEEN EC AND US. THIS MAY BE EFFORT BY EC, INCLUDING FRANCE, TO CREATE NEW AND MORE CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE FOR MOVING SUBJECT OF EC/US CONSULTATIONS FROM LEVEL OF CONFRONTATION TOWARD A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. ON OTHER HAND, THIS MAY REPRESENT MORE OF AN ATTEMPT BY EC TO MINIMIZE REALITY OF PROBLEM RATHER THAN TO FACE UP TO IT. WHILE WE WOULD HOPE FOR THE FORMER, DUFOURCQ'S COMMENTS GIVE DISQUIETING EVIDENCE OF THE LATTER. IN ANY EVENT, WE THINK IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT FRENCH WILL UNDERTAKE BASIC CHANGE IN THEIR APPROACH TO ISSUE OF US/EC CONSULTATION DURING CURRENT FRENCH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. GENUINE SUBSTANTIVE MOVEMENT ON PART OF FRENCH MUST AWAIT OUTCOME OF THAT ELECTION AND WILL DEPEND CRUCIALLY ON WHO IS NEW OCCUPANT OF ELYSEE.

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